

REMARKS

Claims 22-43 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 39 and 42 are amended. No new matter is added by these amendments. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein and do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates that the Office Action indicates that claims 39-43 recite allowable subject matter, and bases the above amendments on this indication. Thus, entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 22-35, 37 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,692,292 to Asai et al. (hereinafter "Asai '292"). Additionally, the Office Action rejects claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Asai '292 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,272,051 to Asai et al. (hereinafter "Asai '051"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claims 35 and 36 depend from allowable claim 39. Accordingly, Applicant understands claims 35 and 36 as reciting allowable subject matter.

The Office Action asserts that Asai '292 teaches all of the features recited in independent claim 22. However, Asai '292 does not teach or suggest a substrate conveyor which is "capable of stopping the circuit substrate at a desired position in the conveying direction," as recited in claim 22.

Asai '292, in Figs. 1 and 15 and col. 12, lines 19-25 and 52-66, teaches two stopper devices 48 and 68 at the respective downstream ends of the belt conveyor 27 and the two belt conveyors 64. Additionally, Asai '292, in col. 13, lines 1-20 and col. 30, lines 27-29, teaches employing two board detecting devices 50 and 69 only at a corresponding respective downstream ends of the belt conveyor 27 and the two belt conveyors 64 to detect a PC board which has been mechanically stopped by a corresponding stopper device 48 or 68. However, Asai '292 does not teach or suggest a substrate conveyor that is "capable of stopping a circuit substrate at a desired position in conveying direction," as recited in claim 22.

Additionally, Asai '292 does not teach or suggest a working system for a circuit substrate including at least "a working head which is held by the moveable member of a moving apparatus and performs a plurality of operations for prescribed points on the circuit substrate which has been stopped at the desired position; a first detector used for decelerating the circuit substrate and a second detector used for stopping the circuit substrate, which are held by the movable member with a space there between in said direction parallel to the conveying direction," as recited in claim 22.

Asai '292, at col. 13, line 7 and Fig. 15, teaches that each belt conveyor 64 includes two endless belts which are rotated by a conveyor drive motor 66. These endless belts convey the circuit substrate only, but do not convey a working head or the first and second detectors. If the stopper devices and the detecting devices of Asai '292 are provided on the endless belts, then they would be moved with each circuit substrate and therefore, cannot mechanically stop the circuit substrate or detected the stopped circuit substrate. Thus, the stopper devices 48 and 68 and the board detecting devices 50 and 69 must be provided at respective fixed positions at the respective downstream ends of the belt conveyors 27 and 64. Thus, Asai '292 does not teach or suggest mounting the working head, the two stopper devices and the two detecting devices on a common movable member.

Furthermore, Asai '292, in col. 30, lines 27-29, teaches that the stopper device 48 and 68 mechanically stops the PC board by abutting contact with the PC board. However, mechanically stopping the PC board is not decelerating in response to the detection of the PC board by the board detecting device or controlling the two belt conveyors to stop in response to the detection of the PC board by the board detecting device. Therefore, Asai '292 does not teach or suggest "a substrate stop position controller which controls the moving apparatus to have the first detector and the second detector move to respective predetermined locations, and controls the substrate conveyor such that the substrate conveyor decelerates in response to the detection of the detection portion by the first detector positioned at one of the predetermined locations and stops in response to the detection of the detection portion by the second detector positioned at the other of predetermined locations," as recited in claim 22.

Asai '051 does not teach or suggest the above-noted features, and therefore, fails to make up for the above deficiency of Asai '292.

For at least the reasons above, the applied reference cannot reasonably be considered to teach or to have suggested all of the claims recited in independent claim 22. Further, claims 23-34, 37 and 38 would also not have been suggested by the applied references for at least the respective dependency of these claims on allowable independent claim 22, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recite.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 22-38 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 22-43 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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